

Vestry Minutes—Church of Our Redeemer

Wednesday, November 4, 2009 – 7:30 pm

Handley Library, Church of Our Redeemer

Attendance: The Rev. Kate Ekrem (Priest-in-Charge), Connie Parrish (Sr. Warden), George Murnaghan (Jr. Warden), Jim Neumann (Ass't Treasurer), Dinesh Dulipsingh (Treasurer), Janet Kern (Clerk), Randy Bowlby, Erica Brotschi, Jed Geyerhahn, Sandra Keshishian, Lindsay Koso, Peter Lund, Jack Manes, Katherine Mirani; Karen Schragle and Peter Koso (Property Committee); Chris Needham, Jessie Maeck, Bob King, and Dan Stevenson (Mission Committee)

Absent: The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons.

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Kate Ekrem; We began with prayer using stones placed on our small finger labyrinth.

Approval of Minutes:

A MOTION was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the Vestry meeting of October 21, 2009. The motion was approved unanimously as amended.

Budget Meetings: Mission and Property.

Property Budget: (Karen Schragle)

Karen described the challenges of capital budgeting with respect to the amount of time it takes to actually propose projects, get bids and approval by vestry. Property has felt that it is always in the position of dealing with emergencies. The committee tends to do capital projects that are of an urgent nature and it's difficult to budget for those. To demonstrate one current challenge, the Vestry took a "field trip" to see the failing tile under the piano in the sanctuary that needs replacement ; Because of the uncertainty of whether it is asbestos tile, etc, and how much needs to be replaced, it is difficult to budget.

There are also capital projects that are managed off-budget. In this context, Property is asking to defer steeple painting until April. It would be helpful for Property to have funds available to pay for both emergencies and planned projects so they can move from bids to implementation. Peter Koso recommended vestry begin process of starting a capital campaign.

Operating Expense Budget for 2010 will be based on the actuals from 2009. No written budget request was submitted although Karen reviewed verbally the budget items for Property:

Trash pickup, Cleaning, Handyman, Insurance, Non-capital repairs, Sexton, Snowplowing.

Mission Budget: (Chris Needham)

Operating Budget request is for \$15,000 compared to last year's request of \$18,000; organizations that we support serve children, hunger and homelessness and have the greatest need; Total giving from Redeemer parishioners is about \$50,000 in cash and in-kind donations that go directly to the organizations, facilitated by the parish. The Mission budget supports travel, if necessary, especially to Honduras and El Hogar. The budget request increases our commitment to Sandra's Lodge (homeless families) and to Esperanza Academy in Lawrence. Giving in 2009 is increased over 2008. This budget request asks to restore less than half of what was planned for increased budgeting over several years.

Treasurer's Report

The 13th month initiative has yielded \$23K, exceeding our goal of \$20K and closing the budget gap to within \$3000. Dinesh reviewed some of the details of recent income and expenses, but no specific items were highlighted as concerns.

A MOTION to accept the Treasurer's Report was made and seconded, and approved unanimously.

Vestry Liaison Reports: Property and Welcome.

Property: (Randy)

Since we had just had a review with Karen Schrage, Property Chair - along with the budget conversation, there was no additional report necessary from our Vestry liaison.

Welcome: (Sandy)

Sandy reported that the Welcome Team is no longer making its own Sunday announcement – but standing up/waving to identify themselves to newcomers if they would like more information after the service. Instead, the Celebrant makes the announcement. New welcome cards for the pews are imminent; Welcome has made an Endowment request for portable signs that can be used to advertise parish events. They are also considering ideas for various banners that might be purchased for different occasions throughout the church year, but no decision or request for funds has been made.; There will be a special supper and caroling event on Dec 13th to be hosted by the Hausseins and Donahues. All are welcome.

Priest-in-Charge Report

Kate said that the bishops have suggested that clergy report in periodically; hence this report:

- Kate has so far met with about 30 people in the parish, from the list the vestry suggested in August, about 20 more to go.
- Actively involved in communications, stewardship, worship groups: Communications will meet 11/14 @ 3:00 pm
- Stewardship – cottage meetings continue; “stewardship” is theme for Sunday, 11/8; need a year-round stewardship committee; that will be a focus for new year.
- Worship group will be getting together – Nov. 19th @ 7:30

Challenges: It is beginning to be clear that Kate can't go to all meetings all the time; it is also a challenge keeping office systems running smoothly.

Organ Proposal Discussion

The vestry discussed the proposal for the organ study that had been presented at the previous meeting. A MOTION was made and seconded: that vestry agree to fund from the Church's operating budget a study with a cost not to exceed \$1500 to be directed by Music Committee and that the study include review of a full range of options for improving organ performance, from rehabilitation of the current instrument to full sanctuary renovation, including electronic options. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Nursery Safe Church Policy for approval

We could not approve the policy because we hadn't received advance copy. Jack distributed hardcopies of the “Safe Church Policy for the Nursery” for approval at next meeting.

Bishop's Visit:

Peter Lund will coordinate catered lunch for 11/22

VPD Announcement: Vestry agreed that VPD should always get up and say something during Sunday morning announcements: Current topics to announce: Thanks for 13th month and stewardship meetings.

Acknowledgements – no names were submitted for acknowledgement (thank-you notes) at this meeting.

Closing

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Kern, Clerk